

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 044408 TOSEC 040264

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:JHOGANSON

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:JHOGANSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 044408 TOSEC 040264

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT ROME 2921 ACTIONSECSTATE 24 FEB

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2921

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (PRES. LEONE), IT

SUBJECT: LEONE VISIT

REF: STATE 39259

1. PRESIDENT LEONE'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER CAME TO SEE ME YES-
TERDAY AND SAID THAT PRESIDENT LEONE REGRETS THAT HE WILL BE
UNABLE TO VISIT THE U.S. IN APRIL AND TO ACCEPT THE PRESIDENT'S
KIND INVITATION FOR A MEETING ON APRIL 12. (REF) THE POL-
ITICAL SITUATION IN ITALY IS EXTREMELY DELICATE AND WITH THE
SOCIALIST AND CD CONGRESSES COMING UP IN MARCH THE POSSIBILITY
OF FURTHER GOVERNMENT CRISES IS CONSIDERABLE. ACCORDINGLY,
PRESIDENT LEONE BELIEVES HE MUST REMAIN IN ITALY DURING THIS
PERIOD.

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2. THE DIPLOMATIC ADVISER ASKED THAT I EXPRESS TO PRESIDENT

FORD LEONE'S DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE PRESIDENT'S COURTESY
AND HIS HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO RESCHEDULE THIS MEET-
ING SOMETIME LATER THIS YEAR.

3. THE ITALIANS FULLY UNDERSTAND THE PRESIDENT'S HEAVY COM-
MITMENTS DURING THIS BICENTENNIAL AND ELECTION YEAR. VOLPE
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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To: SECRETARY AIRCRAFT
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